➢ The **cp -r dir2 dir1** Command copies the contents from the **dir2** Directory to the **dir1** Directory. If the **dir1** Directory does not exist, the system will create it and then copy the files in the **dir2** Directory to it. If the **dir1** Directory already exists, the system will create a subdirectory called **dir2** under it. Ensure you use the **-r** Option when copying directories.

• The **mv** Command allows you to move or rename a file. It provides the single **-i** Option that prompts you for confirmation whenever the **mv** Command would overwrite an existing file. If you press any key other than ⌨Y , you prevent the **mv** Command from overwriting the file.

Examples are as follows:

➢ The **mv file1 file2** Command changes the name of the **file1** File to **file2** File. If the **file2** File does not exist, the system creates it. If the **file2** File already exists, the system will overwrite it unless you use the **-i** Option.

➢ The **mv file2 dir1** Command moves the **file2** File to the **dir1** Directory. If the **file2** File already exists in the **dir1** Directory, the system will overwrite it unless you use the **-i** Option. If it does not exist, the system will create it.

➢ The **mv dir2 dir3** Command will either move or rename the **dir2** Directory to the **dir3** Directory depending on whether it already exists. If the **dir3** Directory already exists, the system will move the **dir2** Directory and its contents into the **dir3** Directory. If it does not exist, the system will change the name of the **dir2** Directory to **dir3** Directory.

• The **rm** Command allows you to delete or remove a file or directory.

Options are as follows:

➢ The **-i** Command prompts you for permission before removing each file.

➢ The **-r** Command recursively deletes all files and subdirectories from the directory where you execute the command. Pay careful attention when using this option.

Examples are as follows:

➢ The **rm dir1/file*** Command removes all files from the **dir1** Directory that start with the word **file**.

➢ The **rm -r dir2** Command recursively removes all files and subdirectories from the **dir2** Directory. Execute this command from a directory above the directory being removed.

Reference:
UNIX Made Easy (LURNIX)
Osborne McGraw Hill 1990

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UNIX FILE COMMANDS

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UNIX FILE COMMANDS

FILE COMMANDS

- The **cat** Command allows you to create and concatenate files (link them together) and then display their contents.

  Examples are as follows:

  ➣ The **cat memo** Command displays the contents of a memo.

  ➣ The **cat > memo3** Command creates a file called **memo3**. Ensure you include the redirection symbol **(>)** for the entry of lines of text. When you finish your input, press the ⌐ Enter key and then the Ctrl and D keys simultaneously. If the **memo3** File already exists, the system will overwrite it.

  ➣ The following command on two lines,

  cat memo memo2>>
  memo1

  concatenates the contents of both **memo** and **memo2** files and places the results in a new file called **memo1**.

- The **touch** Command allows you to create a blank file.
  Options are as follows:

  ➣ The **-a** Option changes the access time of a file to the current time if you do not specify the time.

  ➣ The **-m** Option changes the modification time of the file to the current time if you do not specify the time.

  ➣ The **-t time** Option uses the time you specify instead of the current time. If you omit the **CCYY**, the system assumes the current year. The option argument is a decimal number of the following form,
  [[CC]YY]MMDDhhmm[.ss]
  (In this form, **CC** represent the first two digits of the year; **YY** represent the last two digits of the year; **MM** represent the month of the year [01 through 12]; **DD** represent the day of the month [01 through 31]; **hh** represent the hour of the day [00 through 23]; and **mm** represent the minute of the hour [00 through 59].)

  Examples are as follows:

  ➣ The **touch file1** Command creates a blank file called **file1**.

  ➣ The **touch /dir/file2** Command changes the access time for the **/dir/file2** File to the current date and time.

- The **cp** Command allows you to copy a file or directory.

  Options are as follows:

  ➣ The **-i** Command prompts you for confirmation whenever the **cp** Command would overwrite an existing file. If you press any key other than Y you prevent the **cp** Command from overwriting the file.

  ➣ The **-r** Command provides a recursive subtree copy. Use this command when copying directories.

  Examples are as follows:

  ➣ The **cp file1 file2** Command copies the contents from the **file1** File to the **file2** File. If the **file2** File does not exist, the system will create it. If it already exists, the system will overwrite it unless you use the **-i** Option.

  ➣ The **cp file1 file2 dir3** Command copies the contents from both the **file1** File and the **file2** File to the **dir3** Directory. If the files do not already exist in the **dir3** Directory, the system will create them with the same names. If the files already exist in the **dir3** Directory, the system will overwrite them unless you use the **-i** Option.